

COAL OUTPUT INCREASES.

Estimated Production In 1915 Is 518,000,000 Tons—Geological Survey Reports Better Outlook for Coal Industry.

The coal industry of the United States, which began the year 1915 under adverse conditions, improved steadily during the summer and fall in sympathy with the general betterment of business, and in November and December was in better position as regards markets and prices than at any time since 1913, although in the territory west of Ohio the improvement came too late to overcome the depression of the earlier months.

The production of bituminous coal and anthracite in the United States in 1915 is estimated by C. E. Leshor, of the United States Geological Survey, at 518,000,000 short tons, an increase over 1914 of less than 1 per cent. Bituminous production increased about 6,500,000 tons, and the output of anthracite was less than in 1914 by about 2,200,000 short tons.

The increase in the output of soft coal was not shared equally by all the fields, for reports from 100 coal-carrying railroads and from leading coal-mining operators and others familiar with the industry indicate that in the bituminous fields of the East production increased, whereas in the area west of Ohio there was a general decrease. All States in the Mississippi Valley and in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific coast regions, except Colorado and possibly Wyoming, remained either practically stationary as regards output or showed decreases.

In the East, on account of the steady demand for export coal and for coke for steel making and the general improvement in business, the output of bituminous coal in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Alabama increased to a gratifying extent. Ohio and Virginia, also had increases, but Georgia, Maryland, and Tennessee recorded decreases. In Pennsylvania the increase was mainly in the coking districts, and for the State it is estimated to have been about 5,000,000 tons. The weekly reports of coke production published in the Connellsville Courier indicate that the output of coke in the two Connellsville districts increased over 2,000,000 tons, or 16 per cent, and as each ton of coke represents about 15 tons of coal, an increase of over 3,000,000 tons of coal is indicated. The prosperous condition of the steel industry in the South is responsible for an increase of nearly 1,000,000 tons in the coal output of Alabama. Developments begun several years ago in West Virginia and in eastern Kentucky are now going at full capacity, and not a small part of the demand for Kentucky coal comes from the by-product coke plants of the Middle West. The increase in Kentucky was about 2,000,000 tons, and in West Virginia approximately 1,500,000 short tons.

It is not unreasonable to consider that the increase in the East would have been much greater had it not been for a shortage of transportation facilities, which developed in

the fall and which at the close of the year assumed serious proportions. The shortage of railroad cars was confined mainly to the East and South and is said to be due to the congestion at seaboard points caused by the inability of shippers to acquire ocean-going vessels to take care of the great quantities of foreign freight forwarded from the interior. The rise in ocean freight rates caused many vessels normally engaged in coal transportation to be transferred to grain and other higher-priced commodities, and this has resulted in a decrease since August and September in the quantity of coal exported to Europe and South America. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the quantity of coal exported to Europe and South America during the first 10 months of 1915 exceeded the quantity exported in the same period of 1914 by about 3,000,000 tons. In 1915, however, exports of both anthracite and bituminous coal to Canada decreased.

The markets for coal from the Mississippi Valley were more restricted in 1915 than for several years past. The railroads, the largest users of coal in that territory, are reported to have economized in their use of coal by decreasing the number of trains and by the introduction of more efficient methods of firing locomotives. The decrease in the output of coal in Illinois, Indiana and Iowa was close to 1 per cent, and in the Southwestern States, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, the decrease was over 10 per cent. Largely because of the successful competition of natural gas and petroleum, the output of coal in Texas decreased in 1915 as compared with 1914.

Increased use of fuel oil and of hydroelectric power, the unsettled condition of mining and smelting in Mexico, and the competition of Canadian coal have tended to restrict the market for coal in the far West, and to those factors the general decrease in output in that region is attributed. Coal production increased in Colorado from 3 to 5 per cent but decreased in Montana, New Mexico and Utah. North Dakota and Wyoming recorded but little change. On the Pacific coast Washington decreased about 22 per cent.

Breaks Arm in Fall.

John M. Taylor, happened to a very painful accident Monday morning while taking an invoice of goods in W. W. Taylor & Sons' store. He fell from a step ladder, breaking his right arm just above the wrist. The ladder, being of weak structure, gave away suddenly from under his weight, throwing him violently to the floor. His nose and chin were also smashed considerably, causing the blood to flow freely. During the remainder of the day he suffered to a great extent, but at present is resting well. Frank, Mr. Taylor's faithful old blood hound, appeared to be very much hurt over the accident, running through the store barking at the heels of Isaac Taylor when he was sent after a physician, as if he meant for him to hurry up. After Drs. Baker and Glimmer arrived it was with some difficulty that the dog was induced to keep quiet.

FOR RENT.—Three Room Apartment Touraine Building, 2nd floor, front, steam heat, hot and cold water furnished. Apply to R. L. Parks, manager, Monte Vista Hotel. 1-2

Orr-Pugh.

Popular Wise County Couple Weds at Big Stone Gap.

A marriage of unusual interest to a wide circle of friends of both the contracting parties was solemnized at Trinity Methodist Church, at this place, on Tuesday morning, January eighteenth, at eight o'clock, when Miss Irma Lucille Orr, the eldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. David Flemming Orr, of Big Stone Gap, became the bride of Mr. Guy Lucius Pugh, a prominent young business man of St. Paul, Va., a son of Mrs. Mary Pugh, of Pennington, Va., Dr. John C. Orr, late president of Sullins College, and an uncle of the bride, was the officiating minister.

The spacious interior of Trinity Methodist Church lent itself admirably to the carrying out of a unique and beautiful decorative color scheme of pink, green and silver. The imposing archway back of the altar was a mass of southern smilax and pink roses relieved with touches of silver. Banked on the organ and communion table were more pink roses and smilax with silver candelabra gleam with the soft glow of pink candles. Smilax and pink roses, picked out with silver, draped the altar rail.

Marking the pathway to the altar were two silver pedestals on either side, bearing graceful long-handled silver baskets filled with pink and white carnations and ferns. On the altar higher up was a similar basket. Pink tulips gracefully looped outward from the handle of the basket on the altar to the handles of the two baskets on either side connected them, the soft glow of candles and pink-shaded lights lending a "rosate glow" to the whole.

Just before the entrance of the bridal party, Mrs. I. C. Taylor sang very sweetly "I Love You Truly". Mrs. J. H. Mathews at the organ. As the last notes of the song melted into the opening notes of Lohengrin's matchless Bridal Chorus the two ushers, Messrs. I. C. Taylor, of this place, and Carl R. Pepper, of Norton, entered the two opposite aisles of the church. The officiating clergyman, the groom and his best man, Mr. J. Polk Wolfe, of Dante, emerged from the room at the right of the chancel, and as the Rev. Orr reached the altar, the little ribbon-girl, Miss Irma Lucille Taylor, the namesake of the bride, in white with pink ribbons, parted the tulip barrier, allowing him to take his place.

Immediately preceding the bride, who entered on the arm of her father, who gave her away, came the matron of honor, Mrs. Sadie Lanham, of Washington, D. C., handsomely gowned in peach skin tulle in Belgian blue trimmed in white fur and white georgette crepe with a touch of pink. Mrs. Lanham wore a large hat, faced with Belgian blue with a touch of silver lace to match her gown and carried a bouquet of pink roses tied with silver.

The bride, always a handsome girl, was beautiful in her traveling suit of dark blue chiffon broadcloth trimmed in brown fur with a waist of dark blue georgette crepe over flesh-colored chiffon trimmed in lace of Belgian blue and silver, and French knots of the blue. She wore a hat of blue velvet trimmed in brown fur and silver buckle, with shoes to match and white gloves, and carried a

shower bouquet of lilies of the valley.

The bride and her attendants were met at the chancel rail by the groom and his best man and in the hushed silence Rev. Orr began the beautiful ring ceremony of the church ritual which made these two man and wife "until death do us part."

The opening bars of Mendelssohn's joyful Wedding March announced the conclusion of the ceremony, following which Mr. and Mrs. Pugh left immediately for their honeymoon trip, their destination being kept secret from their closest friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Pugh were the recipients of many beautiful and useful gifts from their many friends in linen, china, cut glass and silver. Noticeable among quantities of lovely things were the exquisite pieces of crochet and embroidery, and the magnificent cut glass water set, the gift of Mr. Pugh's employers at St. Paul.

The young couple will make their home in St. Paul, where Mr. Pugh is Credit Manager for the Dickenson, Duff and Handy Company, and is generally spoken of as one of the most promising of the younger business men, having already made a name for himself for his sterling character and business acumen.

Miss Orr has been a teacher in the Big Stone Gap High School for several years, which difficult position she has always filled with entire satisfaction both to the Board of Trustees and a long list of patrons. She is related to some of the most prominent families in the State, the Orrs being an old and well-known family, always figuring prominently in church, State and municipal affairs.

Miss Irma's charming personality has always made her a host of friends, whose good wishes will follow her to her new home.

Among the out-of-town guests at the wedding were: Judge and Mrs. Wesley Orr, of Jonesville; Mrs. Pryor Carr, of Gibson Station; Mrs. J. W. Rader and little son, Billy, of Wytheville, formerly of the Gap; Miss Monica Huettel and Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Pepper, of Norton; Mrs. H. Handy and Mrs. J. J. Cone, of St. Paul; Mr. T. H. Pugh, of Pennington Gap; Misses Bess Wygal and Reba Orr, of Jasper; Mrs. M. B. Compton, of Wood; Mrs. John Wygal and Mrs. R. W. Orr, of Dryden.

In Honor of Miss Orr.

Miss Retta Thompson delightfully entertained the School teachers at her home Friday night at eight-thirty with two tables of Progressive Hearts and one table of Rook in honor of Miss Irma Orr.

Mrs. A. J. Wolfe won the prize at the Rook table, which was a beautiful gift book, and Miss Irma Orr the prize for receiving the smallest number of Hearts, which was a lovely lace boudoir cap.

At a late hour Miss Thompson served a delicious luncheon consisting of fried oysters and beaten biscuit, cheese balls, fruit salad, sandwiches, pickles and hot tea.

Those who were present were: Misses Irma Orr, Olga Horton, Nemo Vineyard, Claribel Lockett, Mary Lou White, Ruby Kemper and Janet Bailey, Mrs. Sadie Lanham, Prof. and Mrs. A. J. Wolfe, Messrs. E. C. Akers and J. W. Rush.

"Our Bascomb" is arming Uncle Sam just now, telling him there's no place like Southwest Virginia for the big Armor Plate Factory, and calling special attention to Bristol, Roanoke and Pulaski. Bascomb is right about it too.—Norton Progress.

PROSPERITY HERE TO STAY.

Business Boom Not Dependent Upon The War In Europe.

New York, Jan. 12.—A careful review of the nation's business and industry has just been made by representatives here.

The purpose was to discover whether there is ground for the widely published optimism on returning prosperity—whether there is improvement apart from the influence of war orders.

There seems to be no doubt that definite, actual prosperity has arrived, east of the Rocky Mountains, at least. Herewith we set down some of the important facts and straws which we have secured.

The country's chief metal industry, steel, is booming. The United States Steel Corporation can keep its rolling mills in full operation until spring with orders now in hand.

American iron and steel is now a 40,000,000 ton-a-year industry, and is now at its capacity.

Most wonderful change has come in the railroad industry. All lines are loaded to capacity. This is shown by the arrival of a serious car shortage.

Idle cars on Sept. 1, numbered 183,569, on Oct. 1, 65,290. On Nov. 1, there were only 26,228 idle cars and today every ancient car and locomotive is at work.

Railroad tonnage increased 10 per cent in one week the first half of November.

Railroads in the hands of receivers, and as bad, are picking up wonderfully. The Erie, which has been a joke for years, is doing the heaviest business, for its size, east of Chicago. Exports of iron and steel have increased 300 per cent since last January.

The lumber trade was nearly dead in 1914 and the war killed it. Now it is rapidly reviving. Many timber concerns are now running to full capacity.

A straw on business in the West and Southwest is shown by the bank clearings of Kansas City, which were \$96,000,000 last week, an increase of \$45,000,000 over the same week the year before.

Investment bankers say that future investment issues must yield 5 per cent and be high grade securities at that.

It is a striking fact that municipal bonds are in great demand, even the bonds of small cities, and that 41 per cent interests carries them where 5 per cent was demanded in 1914.

In 10 commodities used by the general public, figures from all parts of the country east of Denver show high and raising prices. This indicates prosperity and also high cost of living.

The demand for dry goods is better than since 1906.

When times are poor the piano business is poor. Such a remarkable demand for pianos has sprung up, that all factories are working to the limit.

The Western Union Telegraph Company and the telephone trust report heavy increase in earnings. This is ascribed largely to increased use of the wire by buyers, who are flooding manufacturers with orders.

Railroad figures show gross

earnings running about 10 per cent ahead of a year ago, with every indication of breaking the record soon.

When many men are out of work at the beginning of winter, Chicago is their mecca. There were 300,000 idle men in that city last winter, the charities officials say that there are no idle men in Chicago today.

Kitchen Shower for Miss Orr.

On Saturday afternoon from three-thirty to six, Mrs. Otis Mouser and Miss Ruby Kemper were the joint hostess of a lovely party at the home of Mrs. Mouser on Poplar Hill, in honor of Miss Irma Orr, whose marriage took place yesterday to Mr. Guy Pugh, of St. Paul.

The color scheme of pink and white was artistically carried out in the whole lower floor of the home by cut glass vases filled with pink and white carnations, pink shaded lights and potted plants.

Appropriate handpainted tally cards assigned the guests to their places at three tables, where Progressive Rook was the diversion of the afternoon, after which at the close of the games, Miss Orr was presented with a beautiful bunch of pink and white carnations. Miss Clairibel Lockett won the first prize, a cut glass bud vase, and Mrs. Lanham the booty, a book.

Lunch cloths were then placed on the tables, together with cut glass nappies filled with pink and white heart shaped mints. Then was served white brick ice cream, in the center of which was a pink heart, followed by black coffee and salted almonds.

There was a ripple of excitement among the guests when "Monday" came in carrying a laundry basket containing mysterious looking packages wrapped in tissue paper and tied with pink ribbon, which he placed before Miss Orr, who began to open the packages which proved to be a rolling-pin, an egg beater, pie tins, sifter and numerous other kitchen accessories.

Just the faculty of the Public School, of which Miss Orr was a member for a few years, were invited to attend this delightful affair.

Those who were present were: Misses Flora Bruce, Clairibel Lockett, Olga Horton, Nemo Vineyard, Mary Lou White, Retta Thompson, Nell VanGorder, Mary Sken and Janet Bailey, Mrs. Rader, of Wytheville, Mrs. Sadie Lanham, Mrs. Sally A. Bailey, Prof. and Mrs. A. J. Wolfe.

U. S. Court Convenes Here Monday.

The United States Court for the Western District of Virginia will hold its regular semi-annual session here next week, beginning Monday, January 24th, with Judge Henry C. McDowell, of Lynchburg, presiding. It is stated that a record number of criminal cases are on the docket for trial, besides a few important civil cases, which in all, indicates that this will probably be a lengthy term.

A case that is being looked forward to with much interest is that of the United States against A. T. Peterson, which will be tried at this term. Peterson, it will be remembered, was arrested in Cincinnati about the first of December on a Federal warrant, charging him with having stolen a money order stamp from the Duffield, Va., postoffice. Because he had recently served a term in the penitentiary for lefrauding the Bank of Gate City by the use of rubber stamps, he was suspected and postoffice inspectors found in his valise the same handle as that missed from the Duffield office, but the wording had been changed on the die. Peterson is from Scott county, and owns a considerable amount of farming land in the vicinity Horton's Summit.